Mumbai (BSE) and National Stock Exchange (NSE), Prosecution proceedings have also been initiated against Shri Hari Narayan Bajaj and Shri R. Bajaj. Further investigations are in progress.

In the light of the investigations into the trading in shares of DSQ Software Ltd., SEBI has directed that:

(i) DSQ cancel the acquisition of Fortuna Technologies being done on swap basis after following the procedure laid down under the Companies Act, (ii) DSQ is prohibited from accessing capital market for a period of one year or completion of investigation and action thereupon whichever is later and (iii) Mr. Dinesh Dalmia, Managing Director, DSQ is debarred from dealing in securities for a period of one year or completion of investigation and action thereupon whichever is later. Further investigations are in progress.

Reduction in interest rates in banks

3153. DR. BIPLAB DASGUPTA: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government propose to further reduce the interest rates in banks;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor; and

(c) whether Government are aware that due to reduction in interest rates there is sharp reduction in bank deposits?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI BALASAHEB VIKHE-PATIL): (a) and (b) The interest rate structure of the commercial banks has been deregulated with banks having been given freedom to determine their rates of interest on deposits except savings bank deposit as well as lending rates except interest rates on export credit.

(c) There has not been any decline in bank deposits. During the current financial year 2001-2002 upto July 27, 2001, aggregate deposits of scheduled commercial banks increased by Rs. 59,161 crore (6.1 per cent) as against an increase of Rs. 42,433 crore (5.2 per cent) during the corresponding period of the previous year.